Huie Delays Ray Photo Bid Hearing

Memphis (UPI)—Author William Bradford Huie's appearance before the Shelby County Grand Jury today delayed a hearing on James Earl Ray's request that a magazine photographer be allowed to snap his picture in his maximum security cell.

Ray, who wants to sell the pictures, had been expected to appear before Criminal Court Judge W. Preston Battle about 10 a.m. but a court spokesman said the hearing would be delayed until 2 p.m. because Battle wanted Huie in the courtroom.

Huie, who is writing Ray's life story, has offered Ray a reported $5,000 for the pictures for a national magazine.

20,000 Words

He went before the grand jury with orders to present a 20,000 word manuscript written by Ray and "all other notes, manuscripts, memos and documents" dealing with the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in Memphis last April 4.

Huie, talking to newsmen before the grand jury session, refused to disclose the exact nature of his information but he did say he knows nothing that authorities don't know.

Asked if he believed there brought the Nixons' personal was a conspiracy involved in the slaying, the Hartselle, Ala., author said "I think there were other people who had foreknowledge." But he added, "I'm not going to pretend to have information that law enforcement agencies don't have. I can't achieve a miracle. My only advantage has been access to Ray."

Huie has not yet conferred with Ray, but he has been allowed to receive hand-written notes from the suspect.